Sl. No.	Revenue Distt.	Villages without Telephone Facility as on 31/1/2001
36	Madhepura	72
37	Rohtas	1352
38	Kaimur	1087
	TOTAL	24772

Telecommunication services in Western Konkan part of Maharashtra

593. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated a comprehensive action plan for developing telecommunication in rural areas particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for inefficient and ineffective telecommunication in rural areas particularly Western Konkan part of Maharashtra and the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen, expand and upgrade telecommunication in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The development plan for 2000-01 for the rural areas of Maharashtra is given below:

Parameters	Target	Achievement (upto 31.1.2001)
DELs (rural)	1,00,000	1,09,000
Rural Exchanges	800	566

(c) The services in the rural areas of Maharashtra particularly in Konkan is satisfactory. The development plan for the Konkan area is as below:

Name of SSAs	Parameters	Target	Achievement (upto 31.1.2001)
Raigad	DELs (rural)	5414	5669
	Rural Exchanges	15	16
Ratnagiri	DELs (Rural)	3212	3750
	Rural Exchanges	31	27
Sindhudurg	DELs (Rural)	2121	747
	Rural Exchanges	10	10

Telephone facilities to Gram Panchayats in Gujarat

594. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Gujarat;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats to whom telephone facilities have been provided; and

(c) the time by which telephone facility will be provided to the remaining Gram Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 12,419 Gram Panchayats out of 13,510 in Gujarat have been provided with telecom facility;

(c) All the remaining Gram Panchayats in Gujarat are proposed to be provided with telecom facility by Fixed Service Provider by March, 2002.